GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:782
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2016
Use of Sea Water for Irrigation
Kamaraaj Dr. K.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of different sources/ resources of water being utilised for irrigation purpose in the country including shortage of such sources/resources noticed during the last three years and current year;
(b) whether some scientists have suggested the use of sea water for irrigation purpose in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the steps taken so far to make the sea water suitable for irrigation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT)

(a) Surface and ground water from different sources viz. rivers, wells, canals, lakes, dams, ponds etc. is used for irrigation purposes in the country. There have been reports of shortage of water for irrigation in some parts of the country, largely on account of low rainfall during previous years and adoption of water intensive / commercial crops.
A recent review of the status of storage position of 91 important reservoirs being monitored by Central Water Commission shows that the available live storage is 69% of total storage of corresponding period of last year and 77% of the average storage of last 10 years.

(b) & (c) Several scientific reports have indicated about the possibility of use of sea water for various purposes including that for irrigation. However, due to relatively higher costs of treatment, there has been very limited use of sea water.

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